



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 20, 2010

S. 3075 **North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource
on August 5, 2010*

S. 3075 would withdraw about 300,000 acres of National Forest System lands in Montana from disposal, mining, and mineral leasing activities. The affected lands are jointly managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Based on information from those agencies, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

In 1985, a federal court ordered BLM to suspend all mineral leases on the affected lands. Based on information from the Forest Service and BLM, CBO expects that the suspension will remain in place over the next 10 years. Further, based on information from those agencies, CBO expects that those lands will not be sold or generate any receipts from mining activities over that period. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting S. 3075 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 3075 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.